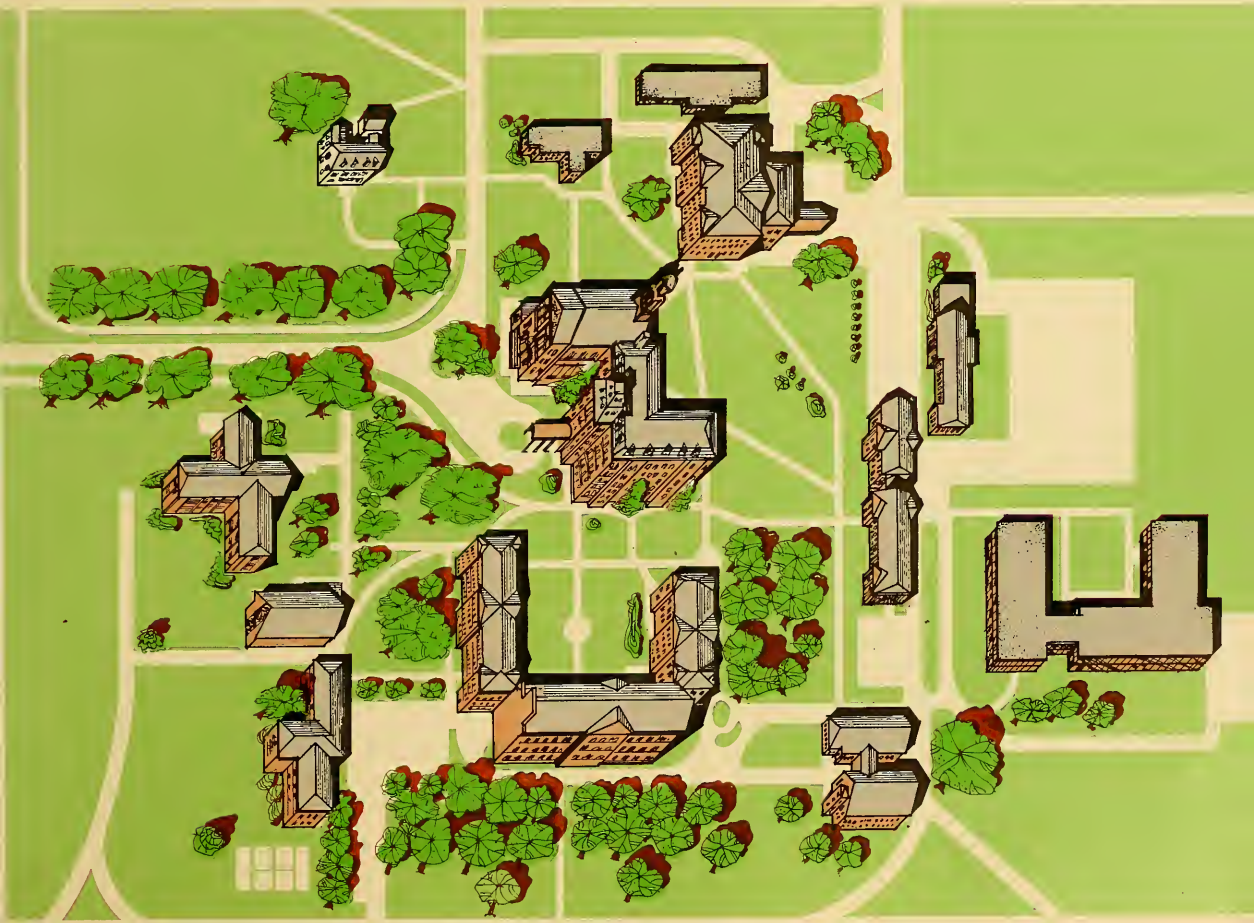
Welcome to the National Fire Academy

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
U.S. Fire Administration



History of the Site

This is the site of the National Fire Academy, officially dedicated October 8, 1979. While this date marks a significant beginning for the nation's firefighting force and the public it serves, it is only one moment in history for a site that is rich in tradition.

In 1786, a parcel of land of which this site was part was sold by Charles Carroll to Samuel Emmit. The deed provided for division of the 2,250 acres into farm tracts and town lots. This land in a valley was originally settled by seven families, who built homes in the fertile countryside. By 1809, a community of several hundred people had grown up around the village at the crossroads. The missionary pastor serving the townsfolk was Father Jean Dubois. One of the farmers was Robert Fleming.

Development of the Site as St. Joseph College

About the same time in Baltimore, Elizabeth Seton was forming the nucleus of the American Sisters of Charity. Designated "Mother" of a community of sisters by the First Bishop of Baltimore, she was pioneering in social work and education with the establishment of a small school and sisterhood on Paca Street. As the school in Baltimore grew, a new location with larger premises was needed.

Samuel Cooper, a Virginia gentleman preparing for the priesthood, was inspired by the activities of Mother Seton. He offered $10,000 to the Rector of the Seminary, Father William Dubourg, for the establishment of an institution to be directed by Mother Seton. There was one stipulation—that the establishment be located in Emmitsburg, an area Cooper had been introduced to through his friendship with Father Jean Dubois.

One fine spring morning in 1809, Reverend Dubourg and Samuel Cooper set out on horseback for Emmitsburg in search of a location for the school. It was Father Dubois they sought out for advice, at his schoolhouse for boys on Saint Mary's Mountain.

Tradition has passed down an account that when they started their journey the next morning, they were met by an elderly, white-bearded artisan, with a carpenter's apron and tools, who offered to guide them in their search. From the top of a hill, the guide, whose name was Joseph, pointed out an abandoned farmhouse on a tract of land known as "Fleming's Farm". Father Dubourg and Samuel Cooper had found the ideal site for the school.

The title of the Fleming Farm was transferred to Reverend Dubourg, Reverend Dubois and Samuel Cooper, who paid for the property. Repairs were undertaken on a delapidated stone house, which then stood on a knoll facing Tom's Creek. On July 31, 1809, Mother Seton, her sisters and school, took possession of the Stone House, the first site of Saint Joseph College.

The school prospered, the numbers of students increased, and the curriculum was expanded. As the many educational needs and activities of the community grew, so did the number of buildings on the site—from the single Stone House of 1809 to the modern, progressive campus left by the sisters in 1973.

Saint Joseph's During the Civil War

While recognized primarily as an educational and religious institution, Saint Joseph's also had its place in Civil War history. It is particularly known for the many deeds of charity and mercy to which its founder was dedicated. During the war, the Sisters of Emmitsburg cared for wounded soldiers on both sides, serving hospitals from New Orleans to Richmond, Philadelphia, Baltimore and New York, and on battlefields such as Harper's Ferry, Second Bull Run, Antietam, Shiloh, and Gettysburg. At least 232 sisters from Emmitsburg were positively identified as having served in the Civil War in one way or another.

It is a little-known historical fact that, but by chance and the happenstance of military campaigns, the most famous of American battles could have been the Battle of Emmitsburg—and Gettysburg only a remote little town from which General Lee's army maneuvered en route to Baltimore and Washington.

On the 30th of June, 1863, the 1st, 3rd and 11th corps of the Union Army of the Potomac were at Emmitsburg under General Reynolds. Reynolds wrote to General Meade, ". . . if the enemy advances in force from Gettysburg, and we are to fight a defensive battle in this vicinity . . . the position to be occupied is just north of the town of Emmitsburg. He (Lee) will undoubtedly endeavor to turn our left . . . near Mount Saint Mary's College". As history would have it, not until the evening of July 1, when it was apparent how great the number of Union soldiers in Gettysburg, did it become fixed that Gettysburg would have to be the site of the major battle.

By another account, it was from a cupola on one of the buildings of the Saint Joseph Academy that a Federal officer surveyed the surrounding area and selected the site on which the Union Army later en-

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References for historical information: *The Valley*, by Sister Mary Bernard McEntee, D.C. and *Emmitsburg: History and Society*, edited by Emile and Mary Nakhleh.

camped to fight the Battle of Gettysburg, eleven miles away.

Tradition of Education

The school which Mother Seton founded on this site was the first of its kind. For 163 years, it was known as an institution whose graduates were better prepared to contribute to society as a result of the education obtained there.

As the National Fire Academy, the tradition of education will continue, as well as the pattern of graduates returning to communities better able to respond to the needs of the public.

Welcome to the National Fire Academy

Touring the Campus

This brochure is intended to provide visitors with a brief guide to the campus. Each of the major buildings is pictured with an accompanying text to indicate the current or planned use. Points of historical interest are also noted. The sequence in which buildings are described suggests a "walking tour" which can be followed in traveling the campus. The key at the bottom of the pages places the location of the building in perspective with the rest of the campus.

An Overview

Situated on the edge of the Catoctin Range of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the NFA campus is of considerable scenic beauty in all seasons. Its location in Emmitsburg, Maryland, in Frederick County, is just a few miles south of the Pennsylvania border. It is 50 miles northwest of Baltimore, and 60 miles north of Washington, D.C., within close proximity of Mount Saint Mary's College, Camp David, national and state parks, historic Gettysburg and Frederick, recreation and resort areas. The property line, extending to U.S. Route 15, includes a portion of Tom's Creek, just south of the campus.

The facility offers an excellent setting for a living/learning environment, well suited to fire education and training. There are 14 buildings on the 110-acre campus, housing 38 fully equipped classrooms and two auditoriums. Up to 1,000 students can be accommodated on a daily basis. Five buildings are adaptable for dormitory purposes, providing residential space for at least 300 students in single rooms.

Other features are a spacious student center for social functions, a modern physical fitness center, an indoor pool, tennis courts, extensive laboratory equipment and a log cabin and boathouse for leisure activities.

Plans are underway for a graphics center, an audio/visual arts and television center and a computer-supported learning center. The library has capacity for over 100,000 volumes.

Collocation Plans

In addition to housing the National Fire Academy, this site will serve as the campus for the Emergency Management Institute (EMI), Federal Emergency Management Agency. This will be the center of all activities focusing on training for planning, mitigation and response to natural and manmade disasters. Courses will address preparation for disaster control and management of operations during emergency incidents such as floods, nuclear accidents, riots, tornadoes and hurricanes. The Institute will also provide training in response and recovery tactics. It is anticipated that collocation will begin in early 1981.

The Mission

The complexity of the Nation's fire problem is awesome—it touches on so many aspects of our lives: the safety of our homes, the protection of our firefighters, the planning of our communities, and the health of our urban neighborhoods plagued by arson. As a nation, we need better information about the fire problem; better techniques for prevention and control; and leadership, incentives and methods for implementing solutions at the State and local level.

The United States Fire Administration (USFA), an agency of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is responsible for major federal efforts to reduce our tragic and wasteful fire loss.

The USFA's National Fire Academy enhances the ability of the fire service and allied professions to deal effectively with the fire problem. The Academy is authorized to provide training and education, through programs delivered at the central, resident facility and in the field, and by supporting state and local efforts through technical and financial assistance.

Gordon Vickery, Administrator
U.S. Fire Administration

A Central, Resident Facility

The establishment of this core, central facility finally places the Academy in the position of having the controlled resident setting necessary for specialized training courses and advanced management programs of national impact. Twelve thousand student weeks of training will be provided to the fire service personnel of the country. This course programming is being targeted to middle and top-level fire officers, fire service instructors, and selected technical professionals, to have the greatest effect on the fire problem.

Outreach Efforts

In addition to the on-site training programs, outreach programs will be developed to improve the professional skills of firefighters in the field. To make the most of Academy resources, outreach efforts center around "train-the-trainer" programs and production of courses and instructional materials that can be "handed off" through instructor training and curricula distribution around the country. Through the

Academy Planning and Assistance Program (APAP), states are helped to identify their training and education needs. The Open University Program will allow fire service personnel to participate in accredited four year programs through an external, independent self-study system.

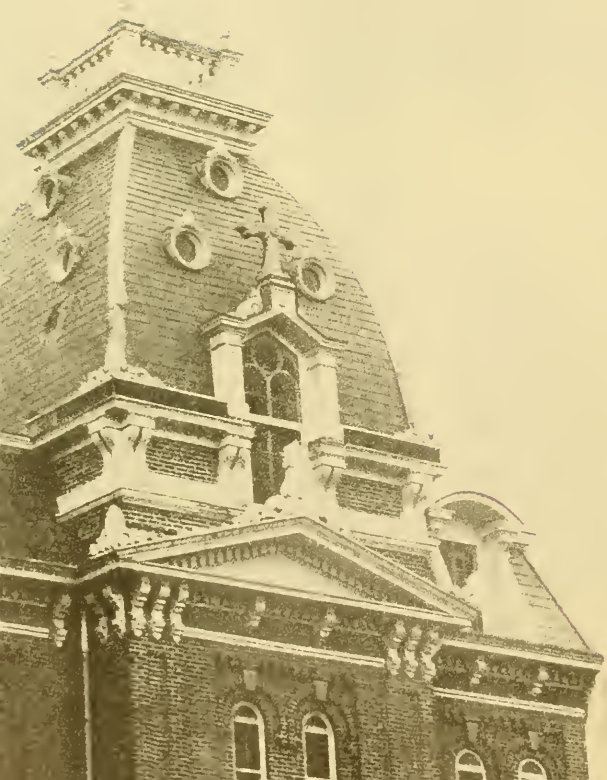
Program Emphasis

By emphasizing middle and senior-level officer "Executive Development" programs and "train-the-trainer" courses, the National Fire Academy expects that its graduates will be prepared to return home as more effective managers and teachers of fire service personnel. In this way, an ever-increasing "multiplier" effect would be created, as teaching and learning continues in communities around the nation, based on model programs at the National Fire Academy.

James McNeill, Project Manager of the Academy Planning Task Force, reviews preparations for NFA's opening year.

Burlando Hall

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING



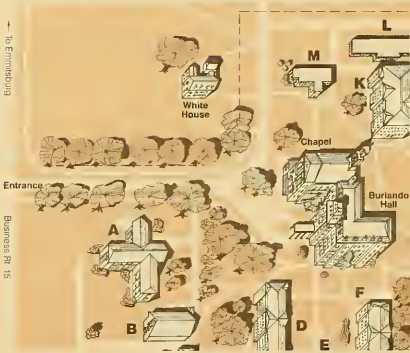
This prominent four-story brick building with the four-sided French dome houses the admissions and registrar's offices, executive offices and library for the National Fire Academy and the Emergency Management Institute.

It is expected that the NFA student body will be drawn from all parts of the country, including representation from paid, volunteer, and part paid/part volunteer departments. The Academy admissions policy is based on accepting students who have strong potential for utilizing knowledge acquired in the classroom.

The NFA library has capacity for over 100,000 volumes and periodicals, with the main reading area of two-story height, bounded by a perimeter balcony.

The building was built in 1870 and is on the National Register of Historic Buildings. Designed by E. G. Lind, it is a fine example of the Second Empire style of architecture which was popular in the second half of the Nineteenth Century. It is nine bays long, six bays deep, and the four stories are topped by a mansard roof. The three central bays, projecting from the wall as a tower, have an ornate pedimented and bracketed cornice which acts as a base for the three-story French dome. The dome has round windows with cartouche frames and is surrounded on top by an iron railing.

The building bears the name of Father Francis Burlando, who had an active role in the development of the college and the conception of the design of the building.


To Emmitsburg
Entrance
Business Rt. 15
White House
Chapel
Buriando Hall
L
M
K
A
B
D
E
F

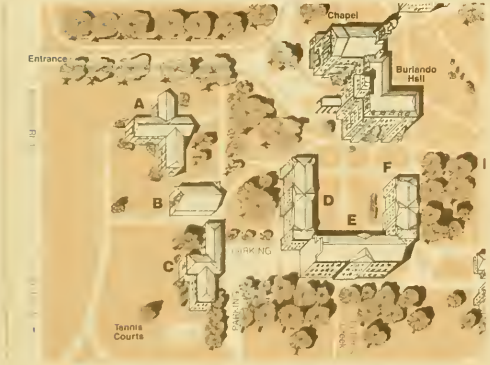
Dormitory
BUILDING A

A three-story brick dormitory building, this structure contains room for 85 students of both NFA and EMI. The rooms are equipped with built-in wood wardrobes, desks and hand-sinks. Each floor features lounge facilities, laundry room, and other service functions. The building was built in 1964.

Dormitory
BUILDING C

This three-story brick dormitory with covered patio entrance was built in 1956. It can house approximately 70 students in rooms of single occupancy. Furnishings are similar to Building A.

The casual dorm setting provides ample opportunity for informal exchange of ideas among students from diverse communities and professional backgrounds. Residential accommodations are geared to long-term stays, with average course duration being two weeks, and longer programs lasting four to eight weeks.

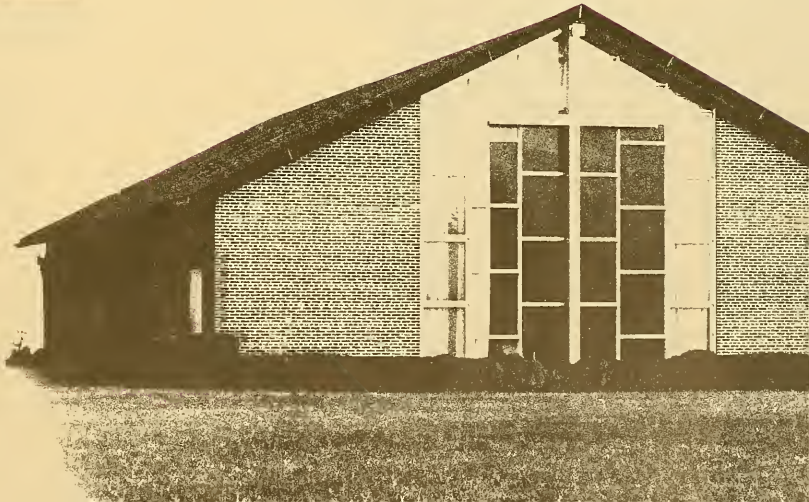


The modern, one-story brick building with outdoor slate patio is the Academy student center, the hub of social life on campus for all students and faculty. A canteen room with kitchenette, snack bar and vending machines as well as a small convenience store adjoins the large lounge, which features a wall-sized picture window framing a scenic view of the mountains to the west. Students and visitors may purchase supplies, toilet and personal articles, snacks and sundry items here.

The center is set up for social gatherings and conference activities, as well as general recreation and leisure time relaxation.

Student Center

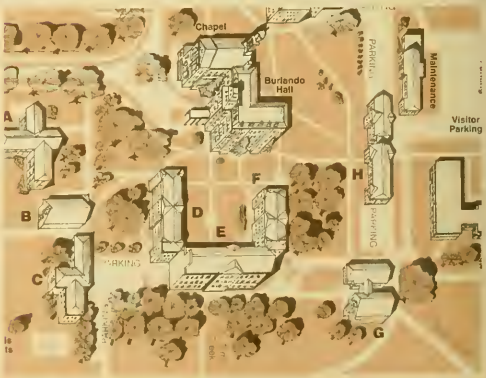
BUILDING B



Dormitory

BUILDING D

A three-story brick dormitory built in 1926, this structure will undergo renovations prior to being occupied as a residential facility. When completed in 1981, the building will provide housing for 85 students, in single occupancy rooms.



Dormitory

BUILDING F

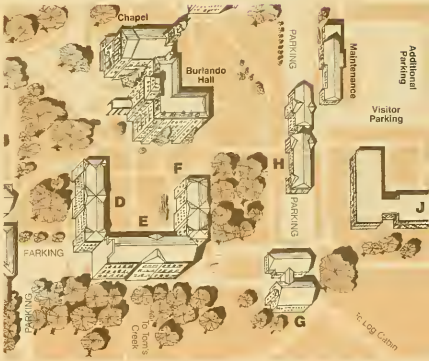
This dormitory is also undergoing renovation prior to occupancy. When completed, housing space for 65 students will be provided.

These dormitories, like the newer buildings on the southwest corner of the campus, will be designed with ample informal group settings and areas for conversation and relaxation. The living/learning experience at the Academy campus should encourage communication and interaction between representatives of many organizations and communities. As members of the fire service are brought to the Academy for exposure to new technology, ideas and techniques, they should have many opportunities during their residence to exchange ideas while integrating new classroom learning with professional experience.

Educational Support Center

BUILDING E

Presently serving as the main administration facility, this three-story brick building will be used in the near future as an educational support center, shared with the Emergency Management Institute. It houses several offices suites and private offices, a conference room, and a 1,000 seat auditorium with facilities for stage performances on the second and third floors. As the development of the center progresses, it will contain state-of-the-art audio-visual and T.V. studios, print shop and dark room, facilities for media production and offices for curriculum development resource staff. The center will also provide space for developing and pilot-testing new courses and preparation of accompanying films, slides and overheads as visual aids.



Gymnasium and Fitness Center

BUILDING H

This three-story brick structure should be one of the most frequented buildings on campus. It houses the gymnasium, with basketball court and track, and an indoor swimming pool. The National Fire Academy places tremendous emphasis on physical fitness management for the fire service, particularly cardiovascular and muscular conditioning. Meaningful fitness programs will be conducted here both as part of the regular curriculum and as recreation. A state-of-the-art physical fitness laboratory will be developed in this facility, as well as offices, and other recreational facilities.

Educational Center

BUILDING A

The newest building on campus, the educational center of the National Fire Academy, is a two-story structure which houses the majority of the delivery activities for on-site programs. The lecture hall wing features a 200-seat tiered auditorium with an audio-visual projection area and extensive modern lab equipment. There are several science labs with auxiliary preparation and equipment rooms, seminar and classrooms, lounge and storage rooms.

The building also contains offices for 40 resident and field program faculty members, and an audio-visual demonstration complex. Offered soon will be a computer-supported simulation laboratory. The building was constructed in 1966.

In this major academic building, NFA education and training focuses on fire department management (Executive Development), "train-the-trainer" methodology, technical fire science courses, and interdisciplinary programs for professionals in allied fields. Information on the Academy's educational program is available from the registrar's office.

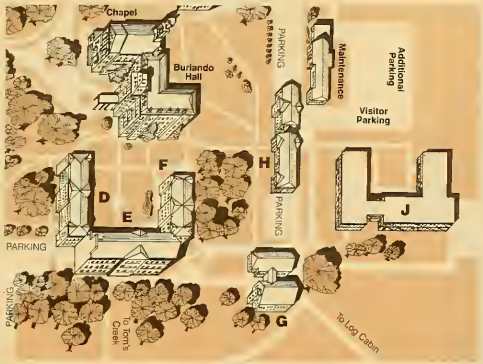
The Academy also plans to sponsor special, topical conferences at this facility, on specific fire protection issues. The physical configuration of this building is well suited to small conferences, where an interchange of information can lead to solutions to common problems and emphasis can be given to situations that place unusual demands on the fire service.

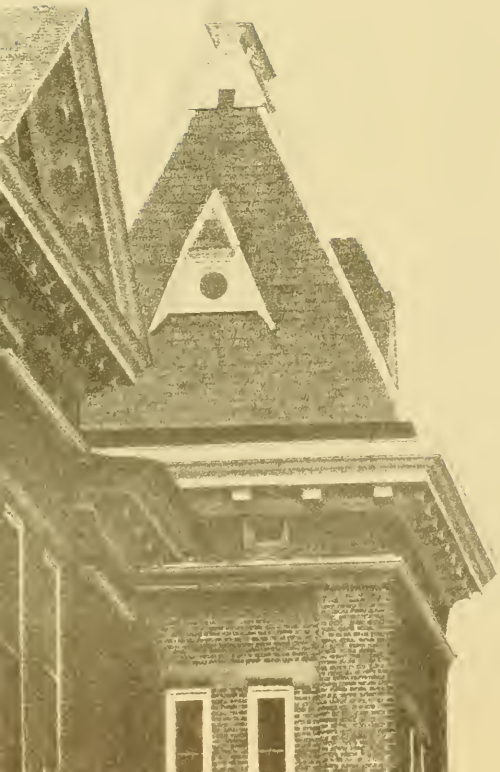
Adjunct Faculty Housing

BUILDING G

This two-story brick building with a one-story wing is suited for many purposes — from educational and training facilities to residential housing. Although presently equipped with labs, classrooms, offices and lounge areas, it is anticipated that the structure will be used primarily as living quarters for adjunct faculty and an infirmary.

The adjunct faculty supports and supplements the full-time faculty, playing a major role in the delivery of NFA educational programs, both on-site and in the field.





Log Cabin and Boat House

The rustic but spacious log cabin and boat house nestled on the banks of Tom's Creek provide a refreshing atmosphere for many leisure time activities for all students and faculty on campus. The possibilities are unlimited for the cabin, with an enormous stone fireplace, cathedral ceiling, exposed beams and wood floors. From picnics and cookouts to ice skating parties, this inviting waterside recreation area adds another dimension to the campus. The boat storage house, with a ramp leading to the water, has space for several row boats or canoes.

Dining Hall and EMI Educational Building

BUILDING K

This post-Civil War structure, built in 1870 and renovated in 1965, houses multiple facilities. It is a three-story brick building, with dining hall and kitchen facilities on the first floor, and educational and training space on the upper floors. It is anticipated that the Emergency Management Institute will use this area for classrooms.

The main hall on the first floor has seating capacity for 500, with cafeteria service. There is also a private dining room for smaller functions. This building is attached to Building L by an enclosed passageway.

Dormitory

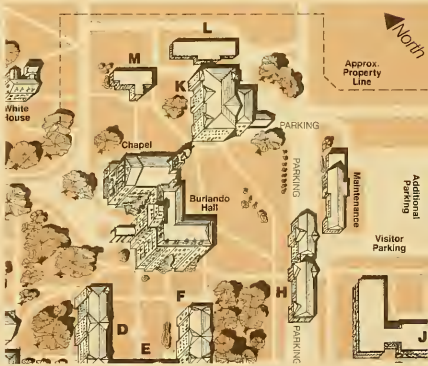
BUILDING L

This three-story brick structure, built in 1959, is planned for use as a dormitory. The first floor contains meeting rooms and parlors; the upper floors contain approximately 50 single bedrooms and lavatories.

EMI Professional Staff Office Building

BUILDING M

This versatile two-story building is currently used as a visitors center. It is anticipated that this structure will be adapted for use as an administrative center for EMI. In addition to lounges and offices, there are kitchen facilities on the second floor. The building was renovated in 1965.



Saint Joseph Chapel

BUILDING O

Erected in 1839, Saint Joseph Chapel was renovated in 1965 according to modern liturgical norms. It is connected to Burlando Hall by an enclosed brick cloister. The main chapel seats 450 persons. There is also a small side chapel, a sacristy, a clergy dressing and preparation room and a study. The balcony accommodates a Baldwin electronic organ. The chapel, now used for non-denominational services, may be used as a meeting hall and visitors' gallery.

The Chapel is noted on the National Register of Historic Buildings as a good, provincial ecclesiastical building with a slightly Italianate or Romanesque feeling conveyed by the roundheaded windows. Fundamentally rectangular, the building derives its ornamentation from the simple brick trim. Flat pilasters separate the three bay gable ends and five bay sides. The same pilasters on this building were later repeated in the design of Burlando. A recessed brick arch enframes the single rounded window in each bay. The pilasters separate plain brick cornice which is topped with brick dentril decoration. Above the entrance gable is a two stage octagonal turret. A small dome caps the Chapel tower.

Federal Emergency
Management Agency
John Macy, Director

U.S. Fire Administration
Gordon Vickery, Administrator

NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY
Dedicated October 8, 1979

"To advance the professional development of fire service personnel and of other persons engaged in fire prevention and control activities."

—public law 93-498—

Jimmy Carter
President of the United States

John W. Macy, Jr., Director
Federal Emergency Management Agency

Gordon Vickery, Administrator
United States Fire Administration